

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

[Claims 1, 17, 24, 45 and 53 have been amended.]

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a computer system for dynamically creating a schedule of timeslot segments for a plurality of routes and timeslots, the method comprising:

determining from a calendar, a set of possible route types for a selected day and a template identifier;

based upon the determined set of possible route types, retrieving a set of available route types from a template identified by the template identifier, wherein the available route types are limited to those route types that are within the set of possible route types, and wherein the template includes at least available route types, ~~but not routes~~;

for each available route type, determining a set of routes for the selected day; and

for each set of routes, creating in a data repository a set of schedulable timeslot segments that correspond to the selected day,

wherein the routes are determined based on the available route types, the route types being descriptors or identifiers for grouping the different routes, and wherein each of the routes is not separated into different route types, and

wherein an electronic storefront system thereafter schedules at least one delivery stop using one or more of the set of schedulable timeslot segments, the at least one delivery stop being for delivery of a product or service.

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9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the method is used to create schedulable events for a sequence of days in the future.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the schedulable timeslot segments are sent to another program to be allocated to actual events.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the actual events are scheduled delivery orders.
12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of possible route types indicates that no routes are available for the selected day.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the set of possible route types indicates a holiday schedule is available for the selected day.
14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each route is based upon geographical data.
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
modifying the template such that data that corresponds to at least one of the set of routes are changed; and
updating the created set of schedulable timeslot segments in the data repository to correspond to the changed data.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising using the determined set of routes to automatically generate in the data repository a set of schedulable timeslot segments that correspond to a different day.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable memory medium containing instructions for controlling a computer processor to dynamically create a schedule of timeslot segments for a plurality of routes and timeslots by:

determining from a calendar, a set of possible route types for a selected day and a template identifier;

based upon the determined set of possible route types, retrieving a set of available route types from a template identified by the template identifier, wherein the available route types are limited to those route types that are within the set of possible route types, and wherein the template includes at least available route types, ~~but not routes~~;

for each available route type, determining a set of routes for the selected day; and

for each set of routes, creating a data repository a set of schedulable timeslot segments that correspond to the selected day,

wherein the routes are determined based on the route types, the route types being descriptors or identifiers for grouping the different routes, and wherein each of the routes is not separated into the different route types,

wherein an electronic storefront program thereafter schedules at least one delivery stop using one or more of the set of schedulable timeslot segments, the at least one delivery stop being for delivery of a product or service.

18. (Original) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 17, further comprising for each set of routes, determining a set of timeslots, wherein a portion of the set of schedulable timeslot segments are created to correspond to each timeslot.

19. (Original) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 18 wherein the number of created schedulable timeslot segments that correspond to each timeslot are based upon a potential number of timeslot segments associated with each timeslot.

20. (Original) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 17 wherein a schedulable timeslot segment corresponds to a delivery stop.

21. (Original) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 20 wherein a schedulable timeslot segment is allocated to an order to delivery groceries.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 17 wherein the product or service was purchased at an online grocery store.

23. (Original) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 17 wherein the set of schedulable timeslot segments supports the scheduling of a delivery of a product a plurality of days into the future.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer-based home delivery scheduling system comprising:

a data repository;

a set of routines for automatically creating in the data repository scheduled timeslot segments for each timeslot, for each route, for a designated calendar day, based upon a template and a calendar system that indicates available routes, timeslots, and numbers of potential timeslot segments per timeslot subject to the available routes being permissible on a particular calendar day, wherein the template is a master pattern from which a copy may be made to create a schedule, wherein the template includes at least available route types, ~~but not routes~~, wherein the routes are determined based on the available route types, the available route types being descriptors or identifiers for grouping the different routes, and wherein each of the routes is not separated into ~~the available~~ different route types; and

a user interface for displaying and modifying scheduling data stored in the data repository by invoking the set of routines,

wherein thereafter using the scheduled timeslot segments to schedule deliveries of products and services purchased at an electronic storefront.

25. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 24 wherein the available routes, timeslots, and numbers of potential timeslot segments per timeslot are grouped by day of week.

26. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 24 wherein the user interface comprises a collection of database forms.

27. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 24 wherein the elements comprise a database system.

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28. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 24 wherein a scheduled timeslot segment for a timeslot, for a route, for a designated calendar day that was created in the data repository is allocated to an order for a product or service.

29. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 24 wherein a scheduled timeslot segment for a timeslot, for a route, for a designated calendar day that was created in the data repository is allocated to a particular customer.

30. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 29 wherein a timeslot segment is allocated to the particular customer based upon a rating system.

31-42. (Canceled).

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the method further comprises alerting a user when the schedulable timeslot segments available to be scheduled are within a threshold amount of being completely scheduled.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable memory medium of claim 17 wherein computer-readable medium further contains instructions for controlling the computer processor to alert a user when the schedulable timeslot segments available to be scheduled are within a threshold amount of being completely scheduled.

45. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating a schedule of timeslot segments for a plurality of routes and timeslots, the method comprising:

receiving an identification of a selected day for which the schedule is desired, the selected day having a day of week associated therewith;

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determining at least one possible route type for the selected day;
determining at least one available route for the selected day based on the at least one possible route type for the selected day and on a template storing predetermined routes for each day of the week, the predetermined routes stored within the template having at least route types, the route types being descriptors or identifiers for the different routes, the at least one available route not being separated ~~into the available~~ based on the different route types, and information within the template being independent of particular delivery persons; and
forming a schedule for the selected day in accordance with the at least one available route, the schedule including timeslots available to be scheduled for the at least one available route.

46. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 45, wherein said determining of the at least one available route comprises determining at least one predetermined route in the template with a route type that matches the route type of the at least one possible route type for the selected day.

47. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 45, wherein the at least one available route is limited by the predetermined routes in the template that have the at least one possible route type.

48. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 45, wherein the timeslots include schedulable timeslot segments, and
wherein said method further comprises permitting a user to interact with the schedule to modify the number of schedulable timeslot segments for the timeslots.

49. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 45, wherein said method further comprises:

 alerting a user when a timeslot available to be scheduled within the schedule is within a threshold amount of being completely scheduled.

50. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method as recited in claim 45, wherein each of the timeslots is associated with a geographical area.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein said determining of at least one possible route type uses a calendar.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45 wherein an electronic storefront system thereafter schedules at least one delivery stop using one or more of the timeslots scheduled, the at least one delivery stop being for delivery of a product or service.

53. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including at least computer program code for creating a schedule of timeslots for a plurality of routes, said computer readable medium comprising:

 computer program code for receiving an identification of a selected day for which the schedule is desired, the selected day having a day of week associated therewith;

 computer program code for determining at least one possible route type for the selected day;

 computer program code for determining at least one available route for the selected day based on the at least one possible route type for the selected day and on a set of predetermined routes for the day of the week, the

predetermined routes having at least route types, and the route types being independent of geographic location; and

computer program code for forming a schedule for the selected day in accordance with the at least one available route, the schedule including timeslots available to be scheduled for the at least one available route.

54. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method for operating an online store to enable a user to purchase goods or services over a computer network, said method comprising:

receiving an order regarding a purchase being requested by a user,

determining a selected day for which the order is to be delivered, the selected day having a day of week associated therewith; and

determining a delivery attribute to fulfill the order, with the attribute depending on both the selected day and the day of week, and with the attribute not pertaining to time of day,

wherein an electronic system thereafter schedules at least one delivery stop based on the delivery attribute for fulfilling the order.